

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
EASTERN DIVISION**

**IN RE: DAVOL, INC./C.R. BARD,
INC., POLYPROPYLENE HERNIA
MESH PRODUCTS LIABILITY
LITIGATION**

Case No. 2:18-md-2846

**Judge Edmund A. Sargus, Jr.
Magistrate Judge Kimberly A. Jolson**

**This document relates to:
Barkley, et al. v. Davol, Inc., et al.,
Case No. 2:19-cv-3630**

ORDER

This matter is before the Court on Defendants' Motion to Dismiss (Doc. 3). Defendants argue that this case should be dismissed because Plaintiffs have failed to produce a complete Plaintiff Profile Form as required by Case Management Order No. 8. (*See generally id.*). Counsel for Plaintiffs represents that, despite repeated attempts to contact them, she has been unable to communicate with them. (Doc. 4). The Motion is **GRANTED** in part and **DENIED** in part.

The Court may dismiss an action for failure to prosecute under its inherent power to control its docket, *see Link v. Wabash R.R. Co.*, 370 U.S. 626, 629 (1962), or under Rule 41(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Rule 41(b) provides, in pertinent part that "[i]f the plaintiff fails to prosecute or comply with these rules or a court order, a defendant may move to dismiss the action or any claim against it. Unless the dismissal order states otherwise, a dismissal under this subdivision (b) ... operates as an adjudication on the merits." The measure is available to the Court "as a tool to effect management of its docket and avoidance of unnecessary burdens on the tax-supported courts and opposing parties." *Knoll v. AT & T*, 176 F.3d 359, 363 (6th Cir. 1999).

The Sixth Circuit directs the district court to consider the following four factors in deciding whether to dismiss an action for failure to prosecute under Rule 41(b):

(1) whether the party's failure is due to willfulness, bad faith, or fault; (2) whether the adversary was prejudiced by the dismissed party's conduct; (3) whether the dismissed party was warned that failure to cooperate could lead to dismissal; and (4) whether less drastic sanctions were imposed or considered before dismissal was ordered.

Schafer v. City of Defiance Police Dept., 529 F.3d 731, 737 (6th Cir. 2008) (citing *Knoll*, 176 F.3d at 363). “Although typically none of the factors is outcome dispositive, . . . a case is properly dismissed by the district court where there is a clear record of delay or contumacious conduct.” *Schafer*, 529 F.3d at 737 (quoting *Knoll*, 176 F.3d at 363).

Here, Plaintiffs have refused to comply with the Court's orders or to participate in the litigation of this action. The Court concludes that Plaintiffs have abandoned this action as a result. Although this Court has a “favored practice of reaching a disposition on the merits,” the Court's “need to manage its docket, the interest in expeditious resolution of litigation, and the risk of prejudice to the defendant” outweigh allowing this case to linger. *Little v. Yeutter*, 984 F.2d 160, 162 (6th Cir. 1993). Finally, the Court has considered less drastic sanctions than dismissal but concludes that any such effort would be futile given Plaintiffs' failure to participate in these proceedings.

This action is **DISMISSED without prejudice**. In the event Plaintiffs re-file, Defendants may claim costs and expenses in the first filing and seek recoupment.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Date: 06/11/2020

s/Edmund A. Sargus, Jr.
EDMUND A. SARGUS, JR.
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

s/Kimberly A. Jolson
KIMBERLY A. JOLSON
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE